

REMARKS

The prior art rejection of the original claims 1-4 has been overcome by applicant's Amendment received by the Patent Office on August 11, 2003. The Examiner now has rejected the amended claims 1-4, under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection is concerned with the recitation in amended claims 1 and 2 of "commonly connected outputs of a plurality of analog-to-digital converters". The Examiner states that the low output impedance of an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) cannot be commonly connected to the output of another ADC because of the risk of damaging both ADCs and having unstable outputs, but he recognizes that these problems customarily are avoided by employing a multiplexing or switching device between the outputs of multiple ADCs and a shift register.

To overcome the latest rejection, applicant has further amended claims 1 and 2 to recite that the outputs of the plurality of ADCs are commonly connected to the input of a shift register by interfacing. As well known by those of ordinary skill in the art, such interfacing not only can be by multiplexing or switching (which the Examiner has recognized as ways to connect ADC outputs to a shift register), but also can be by other suitable forms of interfacing, such as a bus system. It is submitted that the manner in which the claims have now been amended to recite that the ADC outputs are commonly connected to the input of a shift register by interfacing overcomes the basis for the §112, first paragraph rejection.

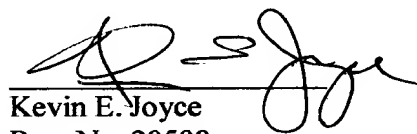
Inasmuch as it is possible that the Examiner may object to the drawing as not illustrating an interface between the ADCs 1-6 and the shift register 7, applicant submits herewith a Drawing Amendment in which an interface is shown. Because the Examiner

PRANTL ET AL-Application N . 09/813,134

has appreciated what a person of ordinary skill in the art would know --- i.e., that outputs of multiple ADCs cannot be directly connected to the input of a shift register and that an interface such as a multiplexing or switching device must be interposed between the ADCs and the shift register---, the change to the drawing does not constitute "new matter".

The §112, first paragraph rejection having been overcome by the foregoing claim and drawing amendments, it is urged that the application now is in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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